

an Internet or intranet search for inputted data 14 (as discussed above and shown in Figure 1) from information suppliers 12 (as discussed above and shown in Figure 1)--.

---

a3  
At page 9, line 6, insert --The present invention can be embodied in the form of computer-implemented processes and apparatuses for practicing those processes. The present invention can also be embodied in the form of computer program code containing instructions embodied in tangible media, such as floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, hard drives, or any other computer-readable storage medium, wherein, when the computer program code is loaded into and executed by a computer, the computer becomes an apparatus for practicing the invention. The computers used in the Litigation Early Warning System may be included in a computer network that includes a plurality of servers for accessing a plurality of network sites containing various types of content, which can be viewed and listened to as appropriate, and downloaded when desired, and that includes a plurality of client systems connected to a server for purposes of browsing the network sites.

The present invention can also be embodied in the form of computer program code, for example, whether stored in a storage medium, loaded into and/or executed by a computer, or transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via electromagnetic radiation, wherein, when the computer program code is loaded into and executed by a computer, the computer becomes an apparatus for practicing the invention. When implemented on a general-purpose microprocessor, the computer program code segments configure the microprocessor to create specific logic circuits.--

---

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5-7 and 9-16 as follows:

---

a4  
Sub 67  
CLAIM 1. (Amended) A method of early warning of potential litigation, within an entity, comprising:  
gathering data from internal and external sources;  
reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;  
prioritizing said potential litigation issues;

B2  
Control

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

determining whether [an issue justifies] said potential litigation issues justify an alert;

issuing [an] said alert if justified and monitoring [any] an action from said alert;

if [an] said alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a report;

issuing [an] said report and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on [an issue] said potential litigation issues occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution.

a5

CLAIM 5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said monitoring further [comprises] comprising:

logging said alert on a database;

deciding whether to implement pre-litigation changes;

documenting rationale for a negative decision, if said [decision] deciding is negative;

assigning corrective action;

B2  
Control

logging said alert on [to] a compliance [data base] database;

implementing corrective action;

reporting implementation of said corrective action to a litigation department;

updating said [alert] database to reflect timing and corrective action taken; and

[follow-up on completed items on a periodic basis to make sure] confirming that enacted compliance actions are [still] in place and remain appropriate.

CLAIM 6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further [comprises] comprising:  
sending a copy of said alert to organizations outside said entity.

CLAIM 7. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for an early warning of litigation, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data

from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide criteria for said user to determine whether [an issue justifies] said potential litigation issues justify an alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issuing [an] said alert if [found] justified and monitoring [any] an action from said [Early Warning System Alert] alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist said user to determine whether said [issue justifies] potential litigation issues justify a report if [an] said alert is not justified;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue [a] said report and [tracking] track its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessment within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution if litigation on said issue occurs.

[the article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.],

CLAIM 9. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

CLAIM 10. (Amended) A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied  
in said medium for an early warning of litigation said computer program product having:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data  
from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a  
user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize  
said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to  
communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain  
specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide  
criteria for user to determine whether [an issue justifies] said potential litigation  
issues justify an alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to [issuing]  
issue said alert if [found] justified and [monitoring] monitor [any] an action from said  
alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist  
user to determine whether said [issue justifies] potential litigation issues justify a  
report if said alert is not justified;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue [a]  
said report [if justified] and [tracking] track its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor  
and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessment within a  
predetermined [period] time frame and early dispute resolution if litigation on said  
issue occurs.

CLAIM 11. (Amended) [Computer] The computer program product of claim [9]  
10 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

CLAIM 12. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [9] 10 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

CLAIM 13. (Amended) In a computer network that includes (i) a plurality of servers for accessing a plurality of network sites containing various types of content, which can be viewed and listened to as appropriate, and downloaded when desired, and that includes (ii) a plurality of client systems connected to a server for purposes of browsing the network sites, a method of early warning of potential litigation, comprising:

gathering data from internal and external sources;

reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

prioritizing said potential litigation issues;

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

determining whether [an issue justifies] said potential litigation issues justify an alert;

issuing said alert if justified and monitoring [any] an action from said alert;

if [an] said alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a report;

issuing [a] said report and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on [an issue] said potential litigation issues occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined [period] time frame and early dispute resolution.

CLAIM 14. (Amended) The network of claim [12] 13 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System alert.

CLAIM 15. (Amended) The network of claim [12] 13 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

CLAIM 16. (Amended) The network of claim [12] 13 wherein said predetermined time [period] frame is sixty [(60)] days.